

(at beginning
of paper)

ilplcm437

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the P. N. E. U. was held on Wednesday June 27th at the Office.

"To reconsider the leaflet" was one of the notices on the Agenda paper.

This Leaflet appeared as an advertisement in the Parents Review & elsewhere.

On comparing the "Objects" as set forth in the leaflet with the original Objects of the Society, great differences appear.

The "Objects" of the Society which have been in force for six years were constitutionally framed by an able Committee afterwards ratified, with some modifications, at a meeting of the Central Council held at the College of Preceptors under the presidency of the Rev. Canon Daniel.

Amongst the Educationalists present on this occasion were Miss Clough, Miss Sherriff & D. Quick.

The special aim of the Committee & Council was to secure a broad & Catholic basis for the Society.

Pains were taken to frame "Objects" within which educationists of whatever school might work freely to avoid all such definiteness & minuteness as would be a limitation in the future in so progressive a science as Education.

It will be seen that both the letter & the spirit of the original objects are violated in this draft.

(at end
of paper)

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It seems desirable that all the members of the Society should know something of the question at issue, the more so as this is an opportunity to make it plainly understood that the apparent indefiniteness of the original 'Objects' is intentional & has a two-fold purpose:—

(a) To allow the utmost freedom & self-developing power to each Branch &—

(b) To leave the Society open to the steady advances of Education as a Science.

As the issue of the meeting on June 27th is rather a moot point to be again opened up at another meeting of the Executive Committee July 18th, the members of the Central Council & the Branches will be informed further after that date

new piece

(signed) C. M. Mason

Hon. Org. Sec.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the P.M.T.U. was held on Wednesday the 27th at the office.

To reconsider the Leaflet" was one of the notices on the agenda paper.

This leaflet appears as an advertisement in the Parents Review & elsewhere.

On comparing the 'Object' as set forth in the leaflet with the original objects of the Society, great differences appear.

The "Object of the Society" which has been in force for six years were constitutionally framed by an able Committee & afterwards ratified, with some modifications, at a meeting of the Central Council held at the College of Reception under the presidency of the Rev. Canon Dorrill.

Amongst the 9 present on this occasion were Messrs C. & S. & J. Dorrill

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The special Com of the C & Council
was based on a broad & catholic basis
for the S.

Plans were taken to frame objects
within which Educ Bids of whatever
School might work freely to avoid all
such objections & limitations as would
be a limitation in the future as to
progress in Science & Education.
It will be seen that both the latter
the spirit of the original objects are
violated & thus defeated.

Quite Confidential

13plcm437

The House of Education,
Ambleside.

16. 5. 94.

My dear Dr Schofield

What a Comfort

you are! The two ladies

Lady Isabel & Miss Forsyth

have been here & departed -

a most pleasant visit

not unaccompanied by

hot discussion.

Lady Isabel is Charming

her ardour & enthusiasm
a pure delight - but the rush
with which she takes things
is appalling.

I well understand it must
tear the Committee parting!
The situation seems to be this -
the Froebel people have got
hold of Lady Isabel & are
endeavouring to use her, & our
Society through her, as a
mere agency to advance R.G.
principles & work.

For a whole day we contested
the point - they were deeply loyal
to me because - I taught Froebel!

The discussion was a little
feminine & droll.

At one moment it was - that I
had drawn all our P. N. E. U.
teaching out of Froebel & was to
be honoured as an interpreter of
the great sage - The next moment,
I had not read, did not understand
Froebel, & that was why I held
aloof!

I think the talk did some good.
Lady Isabel conceded that the
Froebel Society was more or
less a failure - & that the
world had outgrown the R.G.
but they both cling to Froebel
as a mystic who has said

13p4cm437

The last word on Education.
In fact, I think they rank him
with Wagner & Ibsen amongst the
"Eternities & immensities." &
we managed to agree to a
Sentence to be submitted to the
Committee. "Herbert Spencer &
Frobel supplemented by the
progressive Scientific thought of
the day" —

This would do — though personally
I should rather we boldly
claimed to originate our own
School of Educational thought —
hanging on, not to the Educational
reformers — but to the physiologists
of today & the philosophers of
all time, but I trust all to

isp5emc427

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The House of Education,
Ambleside.

The Committee - only we must be
on the alert -

I like Miss Forsyth much - she is
a lady - refined & enthusiastic,
& personally a credit to us - but
she is easily led - & at present
Lady Isabel is her Committee &
her P.N.E.U.!

However, both ladies have
nailed their colours to the mast
& announced great loyalty
which is a gain.

I think the new scheme for a
School of Housewives under
Miss Forsyth a capital idea -

tone which should strengthen the hands of the Society.

I strongly counselled a year's delay to get our present work (Office, Review etc) in order - & also I doubt if Miss Forsyth can undertake the two trips, but the "rush" seems inevitable & the Home Life School might prove a safe outlet for energies.

I distinctly set down my foot against the opening of any branch House of Education on Ambleside Lirres - & both ladies agreed that it would be impossible to secure elsewhere the elements of

our success here - & P. N. & U. must not give sanction to a second-rate product must it?

We have all found a visit from "delegates" of the P. N. & U. very stimulating & delightful - & the said delegates have been most cheering & sympathetic.

One thing more - The trustees will not let me have the big house I spoke of unless the Committee will be parties to the Contract - At first I utterly declined to propose this - but seeing that the Society derives an income of £100 or more from the students (22 at present)

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that there is very human probability
of my being able to pay the rent for
the seven years lease, even if our
numbers do not increase, I think
the Committee might venture to do
this for us - Rent £150.

Could you bring this also before
Committee.

The ~~R~~ Residence in different
houses is a most serious
drawback -

Most truly yours.

(Signed) C. H. Mason.

23p9amc437

The House of Education,
Ambleside.

P.S.

Of course the discussion I
spoke of re our "Objects"
took place with the idea
on my part that the
innovation had been
sanctioned by the Committee.
Your letter makes the whole
affair very serious.

I see not conceivable reason
for altering our "Objects"
at all as the clauses
stand they express all

We want to before ever they were
 laid before Committee they
 were discussed, amended &
 passed by about a hundred
 of what seemed to me the
 ablest & wisest public men &
 women in England.

The following Statement read by me at the Committee Meeting on June 24th may help to elucidate the question.

Sir

Before proposing my resolution, may I say a few words. I find that the Society is not competent to ~~to~~ change the "Objects" for the furtherance of which it was established upon which all members hitherto have joined.

For the Change in question, as set forth in the "Leaflet" let me urge that:—

(a) So far as Education is an enthusiasm we are inspired by the thought of the great Educationists; so far as it is a science we are unable to pledge ourselves to the principles of ~~any~~ teacher past or present.